



## Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Absorbed Relationship	The relationship designation that represents an absorbed relationship. The absorbed relationship is used exclusively to create a permanent marker to identify the occurrence of an Absorption Change of Affiliation. In such a relationship, the absorber assumes the primary role.
Associative Relationships	An entity used to represent an association or relationship between other entities. Thus the associative entity has a relationship to each of the other entities that are being associated. The associative relationships are frequently (although not necessarily) modeled as dependent.
Attribute	A fact, property or characteristic of an entity with only one meaning.
Auditor Role	The role designation for the Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) or other independent professionals who are engaged to perform work that includes inquiries into compliance with applicable laws and regulations, efficiency and economy of operations, or overall achievement of a program's goals.
Cardinality	Describes the degree and the nature of relationships. The degree of the relationship is how many times the relationship occurs. Cardinality degrees include: One-to-one, One-to-many, Many-to-many, etc. The nature of the relationship dictates whether the relationship is mandatory or optional.
Common Data Architecture	A formal, comprehensive, data architecture that promotes a common context within which all data are understood and integrated.
Common Origination & Disbursement (COD)	Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) is the FSA system which processes the payment of aid awards to recipients of both Pell grants and Direct Loans from the Department of Education.
Customer/Supplier Relationship	The relationship designation that represents an owner/owned relationship. A customer/supplier relationship is created when the relationship is based on the exchange of goods or services. Examples include Servicer (i.e., School, Lender, or Guarantor) relationships. In such a relationship, the customer assumes the primary role.
Data Universal Numbering Scheme (DUNS) Number	The Data Universal Numbering Scheme (DUNS) Number is a distinctive nine-digit identification sequence assigned by Dun & Bradstreet, which is an internationally recognized common company identifier.
Dependant Entity	An entity that depends on other entities for their identification.
Direct Loan (DL) ID	Unique program identifier for Schools participating in the Federal Direct Loan Program.
Effective Dating	Effective dates indicate when information contained on a particular record becomes, or became, effective. Effective dating is generally used in conjunction with an associated expiration date that indicates when the record is no longer effective.
Electronic Campus Based (eCB) ID	Unique identifier assigned to institutions applying for and participating in Campus Based funding programs.
Entity	A person, place, thing, concept or event of interest to the enterprise. The entity is always described with singular nouns. Examples include: Student, Lender, Loan, and Disbursement. Two types of entities are possible within the constraints of the model: independent and dependent entities.



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Term	Definition
Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD)	An entity-relationship diagram (ERD) is a data modeling technique that creates a graphical representation of the entities, and the relationships between entities, within an information system.
Federal Agency Role	The role designation for any Federal Agency outside of FSA that interacts with FSA for business purposes (i.e., Internal Revenue Service, Health and Human Services, Department of Treasury, etc.).
Federal Family Educational Loan (FFEL) ID	Unique program identifier for Schools participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFEL).
Federal School Code (FSC)	Unique program identifier assigned to Schools participating in Title IV programs (also referred to as Title IV Code).
Foreign Key	A Foreign Key is a primary key attribute within a dependent entity that was inherited from another entity.
Grouping Relationship	The relationship designation that represents a grouping relationship. A grouping relationship is created for internal analytical and reporting purposes. In such a relationship, the group role assumes the primary role.
Grouping Role	The role designation that serves to provide an anchor point for all grouping relationships. A RID with only grouping roles associated with it is considered to be a “roll-up” entity that has no physical existence. Roll-up entities are created primarily for the satisfaction of internal reporting needs.
Guaranty Agency (GA) Code	Unique identifier assigned to guaranty agencies (GAs).
Guarantor Role	Guaranteeing institution which provides administration of the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program.
Guarantor Servicer Role	Organization that provides numerous services to Guarantors in the processing of FFEL loans (i.e., systems support, guaranteeing loans, etc.). This organization is also referred to as a third party servicer.
Identifying Relationship	Identifying relationships indicate that the unique identification of an instance of the child depends upon knowing the identity of the associated instance of the parent.
Independent Entity	Entities that depend on no other entity for their identification.
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Unit ID	Unique identifier assigned within the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data system to: baccalaureate or higher degree granting institutions, two-year award institutions, and less-than-two-year institutions.
Integration Definition for Information Modeling (IDEF1X)	The Integration Definition for Information Modeling (IDEF1X) is a common notational structure for the documenting and communicating entity relationships diagrams (ERDs).
Lender Role	Financial institution providing educational loan funds to students.
Lender ID (LID)	Unique program identifier assigned to approved lending institutions participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFEL).
Lender Servicer Role	The role designation for the organization that provides numerous services to Lenders in the delivery of loan funds (i.e., Loan Certification letters, delinquency notices, etc.). This organization is also referred to as a third party servicer.



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Non-Identifying Relationship	Non-identifying relationships signify that the unique identification of the instance of the child does not depend upon knowing the identity of the parent instance.
Office of Postsecondary Education (OPEID) ID	Office of Postsecondary Education identifiers for a School (also referred to as School/Branch Code).
Owner/Owned Relationship	The relationship designation that represents an owner/owned relationship (i.e. a relationship in which one company/institution owns another company/institution). In such a relationship, the owner role shall be listed as the primary and the owned as the secondary.
Owner Role	The role designation for the designator for an organization that owns another organization.
Pell ID	Unique program identifier for Schools participating in the Federal Pell Grant Program.
Private Collection Agency (PCA) Role	The role designation for the private agencies contracted by FSA to administer many of the collection activities on the defaulted loans within the portfolio.
Private Collection Agency (PCA) Code	Unique identifier assigned to Private Collection Agencies (PCAs).
Primary Key Relationship	Attributes used for the unique identification of an entity. Describes a meaningful association between occurrences of one or more entities that provides some relevant and valuable information. It may be further described as a rule about how entities work together. Relationships are named with verbs or verb phrases to indicate the association. Relationships may be identifying or non-identifying
School Role	The role designation for a School main campus or additional location as defined for Title IV funding.
School Other Role	The role designation for the other School components not covered by the School role. An example would be an administrative office.
School Servicer Role	The role designation for the organization that provides numerous services to Schools in the delivery of financial aid. Specifically in relation to FSA, a School Servicer acts on behalf of the School to submit records to COD, NSLDS, etc. This organization is also referred to as a third party servicer.
Split Relationship	The relationship designation that represents a split relationship. The split relationship is similar to the absorbed in that it creates a marker of normally untraceable events. For Change of Affiliation events where a role becomes a new Trading Partner, the split relationship type would be used. In such a relationship, the original entity assumes the primary role.
State Agency Role	The role designation for an agency that provides leadership and coordination between institutions of higher education within a particular state.
State Agency Code	Unique identifier assigned to State Agencies.
Subject Area	Describes a set of related entities and relationships. The logical data model for the RID Solution is considered to be one subject area while the TPM Solution would possess several additional subject areas (e.g., profile, demographics, etc.).
Subject Matter Expert (SME)	An individual who exhibits the highest level of expertise in performing a specialized job, task, or skill within the organization.
Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)	Taxpayer identification number.



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Term	Definition
Trading Partner Entity	A Trading Partner is an external business entity that conducts business, or exchanges information, directly with FSA.
Tier One/Tier Two Relationship	The relationship designation that represents a hierarchical relationship. Most commonly used with School Trading Partners to represent the main/additional location relationship. In such a relationship, the tier one Trading Partner assumes the primary role.
Trading Partner Relationships	Trading Partner relationships are associations between two or more Trading Partner roles.
Trading Partner Role	A distinction was made between a Trading Partner and the roles they might play with FSA or in the industry. As an example, a Trading Partner may consist of multiple roles including School, School Servicer, Lender, Lender Servicer, Guarantor, Guarantor Servicer, Private Collection Agency (PCA), State Agency, Federal Agency, Auditor, Owner, or Grouping.